



New England includes many ecosystems that, by virtue of their ecological value, recreational value, or proximity to large populations, hold a special significance to us. EPA - New England is focusing particular attention and resources on these special places. Working closely with our federal, state and local partners, these community-based initiatives are delivering tangible environmental improvements to these areas.

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Fact Sheet/March 2000

Rumney Marsh



Photo: Ed Reiner - Saugus, MA (View from Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary)

What Makes The Rumney Marsh Special?

- Designated by the state of MA as an *Area of Critical Environmental Concern*, Rumney Marsh is one of the most biologically significant salt marshes north of Boston.
- The marsh contains winter flounder, alewife, American eel, soft-shelled and razor clams, mussels, and a variety of native and migratory birds.
- Productive partnerships already exist and a plan for the restoration of Rumney Marsh is currently under development by a host of stakeholders.

Why Does The Rumney Marsh Need Special Attention?

- The marsh has extensive previously altered wetlands that need to be restored. The marsh has been compromised by standard-type tidegates (which prevent tidal flow), landfills, junkyards, and 200 acres of abandoned highway embankment fill. These conditions have led to a loss of important spawning and nursery grounds and typical salt marsh species, such as *Spartina* (cordgrass), which is being displaced by invasive *Phragmites* (common reed).

What Is "100 By 2005"?

The goal is to restore 100 acres of salt marsh and intertidal areas by 2005.



Progress Now and in the Future

What Partnership Progress Has Been Made?

- The partnership has been promoting the use of Self-Regulating Tidegates, an innovative technology that restores tidal flows in a way that is more beneficial for the environment.
- A Self-Regulating Tidegate was constructed in Revere in October 1997 restoring tidal flow to 24 acres of marsh.
- Mass. Highway Department has permits to install 9 additional Self-Regulating Tidegates in Revere. This will protect and restore 25 acres of salt marsh while providing flood protection.
- Restoration of 19 acres of wetlands were completed at the abandoned I-95 embankment and 10 acres at Park Ave. near the abandoned Saugus Race Track area.
- Two acres of clamflats were restored through the removal (by the Army Corps of Engineers and MA DEM) of a portion of the abandoned I-95 embankment.

What Are The Actions Planned For 2000?

- Assist with plan development and permit approval for the EPA-funded Ballard Street 30-acre salt marsh restoration and flood control project in Saugus.
- Assist with plan development and permit approval for the FEMA/NEMA-funded 20-acre Oak Island Salt Marsh restoration and flood control project in Revere.
- Support and coordinate public review of the Rumney Marsh restoration plan.

Rumney Marsh



Locus Map



Watersheds

Who Are The Partners?

EPA New England • US Fish and Wildlife Service • National Marine Fisheries Service • Natural Resources Conservation Service • Corps of Engineers, New England District • Coastal America Partnership • Federal Emergency Management Agency • ROCA • Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection • Massachusetts Wetland Restoration and Banking Program • Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management • Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management • Massachusetts Highway Department • Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries • Massachusetts Fisheries Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement • Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency • Metropolitan District Commission • Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority • Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District • Massachusetts Bays Program • Saugus River Watershed Council • Friends of Rumney Marsh • Massachusetts Audubon Society • Town of Lynn • City of Revere • City of Saugus • GE - Lynn • RESCO - Saugus

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Note: EPA-New England offers businesses and municipalities information and assistance to improve compliance with environmental laws and be better stewards of their local environment. Please call to learn how EPA can help.